

**Draft Study Plan
for the
Comparative Evaluation of Fathead Minnow Assays for
Detecting Endocrine-Disrupting Chemicals**

Work Assignment 2-18
(2-28-02)

The Comparative Evaluation of Fathead Minnow Assays is a Special Study recommended by the OECD Validation Management Group on Ecotoxicity Test Methods of Endocrine Disruption (VMGeco). The Study Plan will be discussed at the Third Plenary Meeting of the EDMVS in March. This study is an attempt to (1) evaluate the transferability and sensitivity of short-term assays with the fathead minnow to identify specific modes of action of endocrine disruptors using four model compounds, and (2) conduct a side-by-side comparison of the 21-day fathead minnow short term reproduction test (EPA 2001) to an abbreviated version (14-day) of the EPA assay and a non-spawning adult version proposed to the OECD. The short-term reproduction assay using the fathead minnow is a Tier 1 screening assay. The Fish Screening Assays Detailed Review Paper describes these various approaches and will also be discussed at the March meeting. Data from the Special Study will be used to select an optimum screening assay with the fathead minnow to move further forward in the pre-validation analysis for determining relevancy and reliability. The EDMVS is invited to comment on the Study Plan and consider the following questions:

1. Is the approach proposed appropriate to the objectives?
2. Does the EDMVS have suggestions to improve the study plan?